



Greensboro Parks & Recreation Seeks National Accreditation



Since 1934, the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department has been "*Reaching Out, Touching Lives*" with outstanding programs and facilities for people of all ages, all abilities, and from all walks of life. Over the years, the success of the department has been based largely on citizen involvement and community cooperation. Winner of the 2002 National Gold Medal Award for excellence in park and recreation administration, the department continues to strive for the highest level of achievement in the leisure industry. In 2004, the department embarked upon a two-year process of gaining National Accreditation. Greensboro Parks & Recreation is highly committed to developing a standard of excellence throughout the organization, which will not only meet, but exceed the national standards as set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

During the National Accreditation process, staff is involved in reviewing standards, which are created as guides to developing and enhancing quality operations. These standards are statements of desirable practices established by experienced and recognized professionals such as NRPA and CAPRA. The department must meet a minimum of 36 fundamental standards, which are considered to be critical to a quality parks and recreation operation. Of the remaining 120 standards, the department must meet at least 85% of the applicable standards in order to achieve National Accreditation status. The end result will help the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department to achieve better and safer services, programs and innovations as it continues "*Reaching Out, Touching Lives*" of area citizens, providing leisure recreation at its finest!

Some of the major benefits of quality leisure services include:

[Individual Benefits](#)

- Psychological well-being
- Quality of life
- Fun
- Personal development and growth
- Pleasure
- Sense of accomplishment
- Self-esteem
- Personal appreciation and satisfaction
- Stress reduction
- Sense of adventure
- Creativity and adaptability
- Outlets for stimulation

Life satisfaction
Physical health and maintenance
Full and meaningful live
Problem-solving and decision-making
Balance between work and play

Community Benefits

Lifelines for the elderly
Strong, vital, and involved communities
Reduced alienation
Connected families
Reduces delinquency
Ethnic and cultural understanding and harmony
Outlets for conflict resolution
Community pride
Social bonding
Support for youth
Understanding and tolerance

Economic Benefits

Revenue generator
Economic stimulant
Enhanced land values
Reduced healthcare costs
Catalyst for tourism
Reduced vandalism and crime
Productive workforce

Environmental Benefits

Environmental health and protection
Enhanced property values
Catalyst for relocation
Clean air and water
Physical health and well-being
Preservation of open space
Stress reduction
Protection of the ecosystem
Source of community pride
Environmental health and protection